



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720

Ser N01J/1523

8 Jul 15

Mr. Richard Steiner  
Oasis Earth

(b) (6)

Email: (b) (6) @gmail.com

Dear Professor Steiner:

Subj: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST 2015-09

This letter is in response to your Electronic Freedom of Information Act (E-FOIA) request for copies of documents pertaining to sonar and live ordnance usage during exercise NORTHERN EDGE 15 (NE15). You also request records pertaining to any sonar mitigation measures taken by units during NE15 in response to marine mammal sightings. Your request was received by this office on June 25, 2015 and assigned FOIA case file number 2015-09.

Upon coordination with the subject matter experts on the staff of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, as well as Commander, THIRD Fleet, we found that the information you request is not available at this time. A written unclassified exercise report for NE15 will be drafted for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) at the end of calendar year 2015. Pursuant to Navy wide guidance for this type of reporting, quantity of sonar use and explosives are classified and thus will not be available in the unclassified report. Approximately 90 days after submission to NMFS, the final report will be publicly available on the Navy's monitoring website (<http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/>). Therefore, we have no records responsive to your request.

If you are not satisfied with my action on this request, you may appeal by writing to the Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Ave., SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, Washington DC 20374-5066 within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. A statement as to why your appeal should be granted and a copy of this letter should be attached. Both the appeal letter and the envelope should be clearly marked, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

My point of contact is Ms. (b) (6) who may be contacted at (b) (6) or via email at (b) (6) @navy.mil.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

By direction